



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2015

**RE: Support Brooks NDAA Amendment That Protects Military Service
Opportunities for American Citizens and Lawful Immigrants**

Dear Colleague:

The NDAA, as amended by Congressman Ruben Gallego, undermines America's border security and ratifies portions of President Obama's illegal amnesty for illegal aliens. Although I have voted for every NDAA in HASC and on the House Floor since I've been in Congress, I cannot and will not vote to undermine America's border security.

I ask that you support struggling American families and lawful immigrants by voting today for my amendment to strike the Gallego amendment.

Some background is in order.

During the early morning, sleep-deprived portion of the House Armed Services Committee markup for the National Defense Authorization Act, Congressman Gallego offered an amendment that states, in substance:

"It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Defense should review [applicable law] for the purpose of making a determination and authorization that [DACA illegal aliens are 'vital to the national interest' and therefore eligible for] enlistment in the Armed Forces."

Consistent with supporting illegal conduct and Obama's unconstitutional executive amnesty initiatives, in a May 12, 2015 news release, Rep. Gallego candidly stated that his amendment "encourages the Secretary of Defense to . . . allow . . . [DACA illegal aliens] to serve in our Armed Forces."

Over the strong objection of HASC Chairman Mac Thornberry, Rep. Gallego's amendment passed the Armed Services Committee on a 33-30 vote. Republican Members voted 30-6 against the Gallego amendment. Unfortunately, 6 wayward Republicans repudiated HASC Chairman Mac Thornberry and voted to help illegal aliens take military service positions from American citizens and lawful immigrants.

For those who are interested in such things, both Heritage Action and NumbersUSA are scoring the vote to strike Rep. Gallego's amendment from the NDAA. NumbersUSA will score against the NDAA on final passage if support for illegal aliens taking military service

opportunities from Americans and lawful immigrants remains in the bill. Heritage Action's final passage scoring intentions are unknown to me.

As you ponder how to vote on my amendment to strike the Gallego amendment, please consider the following.

I. Overall Economic Environment: Struggling American Families Hammered by Foreign Labor

For fifteen years, American families have struggled in an anemic job and wage market. Rep. Gallego's amendment makes job and income prospects for American citizens even worse.

According to official federal government jobs data,¹ from 2000 Q1 to 2014 Q1, the American economy had a net gain of 5.6 million jobs in the 16 to 65 age bracket. Incredibly, **American born citizens lost 127,000 jobs during this 14-year period.** Further, due to job losses plus population growth, in 2014 there were **17 million more jobless American born citizens** than in 2000!

The 2000 to 2014 job market for American born citizens rivals the worst in American history.

In contrast to the economic hardship, job losses, and wage suppression suffered by American born citizens, during those same 14 years, foreign-born persons (legal and illegal) gained a net 5.7 million jobs in the American economy. In fact, **every American born citizen demographic lost ground.** Hispanic-Americans lost ground. African-Americans lost ground. Caucasian-Americans lost ground. American males lost ground. American females lost ground.

Amnesty and open-border advocates' arguments to the contrary, job losses and economic hardship were not limited to low-paying, blue collar jobs "that Americans won't do". American-born citizens age 16 to 65 had a net job loss, and foreign-born persons had a net job gain, in each of the following high-paying fields:

- Engineering
- Health Care
- Sales
- Architecture
- Office Management

Rep. Gallego's amendment to take military service jobs from American citizens and lawful immigrants and give them to DACA illegal aliens must be examined in this overall economic climate.

¹ Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Homeland Security, Census Bureau.

II. Americans In Military Service Positions Are Being Fired

Americans serving in our military are already being hammered with lay-offs and RIFs. Rep. Gallego's amendment makes matters worse.

From 2010 to 2014, 92,498 American citizens (and lawful immigrants) were either **laid off** from military service or their positions were lost to reductions in force. In 2014, there were 1,338,487 Department of Defense ("DoD") uniformed personnel positions compared to 1,430,985 in 2010.

In 2015, DoD states it will **eliminate another 27,807** uniformed personnel positions.

By 2019, DoD estimates it will **eliminate another 37,680** uniformed personnel positions.

In total, between 2010 and 2019, DoD states it either has or will **eliminate a 157,985 uniformed personnel positions**, thereby costing American citizens and lawful immigrants 157,985 military service opportunities. DoD estimates it will have 1,273,000 uniformed personnel positions in 2019.

What is the result of America's military's reduction in force? Americans serving in combat in Afghanistan and elsewhere have literally been handed "pink slips" . . . *while they are risking their lives for America!* That is outrageous.

III. Military Enlistment Quotas Are Met by Americans and Lawful Immigrants

There is no labor shortage that justifies supplanting Americans and lawful immigrants with illegal aliens in order to meet military recruitment and retention requirements. In 2014, every branch of the military met their recruiting and retention requirements (collectively called "accessions"):

FY 2014, Active Duty	Goals	Accessions	Percent of Goal
Army	57,000	57,101	100.2%
Navy	33,740	33,765	100.1%
Marine Corps	26,000	26,018	100.1%
Air Force	24,068	24,070	100.0%
Total	140,808	140,954	100.1%

IV. Bottom line: Who Do We Represent in Washington?

I submit we are in Congress to represent and promote the interests of Americans.

In contrast, Rep. Gallego's amendment does not, in any way, shape or form, represent or promote the interests of Americans. To the contrary, **Gallego's amendment betrays Americans** by encouraging the Secretary of Defense to hire illegal aliens rather than Americans.

To be clear, **every military service position Gallego's amendment helps an illegal alien take is a job denied to American citizens and lawful immigrants.**

As America's military downsizes, there are a limited number of enlistment opportunities for American citizens. Each time an illegal alien takes an enlistment opportunity, an American or lawful immigrant loses an enlistment opportunity. The ratio is one-to-one. Period. That is the math.

I hope you will concur that, contrary to the Gallego amendment, it is *not* the sense of Congress, and it is *not* the sense of the American people, that struggling American families should be denied military service opportunities at the hands of illegal aliens.

I hope you will also concur that rewarding illegal alien conduct by giving good paying military service positions to illegal aliens only encourages and begets more illegal conduct and worsens America's border security issues.

Today's vote to strip the Gallego amendment from the NDAA boils down to one question. Do you support and represent illegal aliens or do you support and represent Americans?

I urge you to support and represent Americans by voting to strike Rep. Gallego's amendment from the NDAA.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and request.

Sincerely,



Mo Brooks, AL-5
Member of Congress